%JS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE I	INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE PORISE)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS		
BONITA L. DeCHANT,	aka	LAW OFFICES	OF JAMES A. WEST,	, P.C., ET AL.
(c) Attorney's (Firm Nam HARVEY S. MORRISO 1425, Cleveland, OH 4	ne, Address, and Telephone Number) NN [#0015230], 75 Public Square - Suite 44113 216/687-0343	NOTE: IN LAND I LAND I Attorneys (If Known) HII. CITIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only) Pi Citizen of This State	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF CONDEMNATION CASES, USINVOLVED. PRINCIPAL PARTIES TF DEF 1	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF incipal Place
	(marane Cauzensarp of Fairles in Frem 111)	Citizen or Subject of a	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation	0606
IV NATURE OF SU	IT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Foreign Country		
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Müller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment Æ Enforcement of Judgmer □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Renl Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITION 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 440 Other Civil Rights	1 610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of 625 Drug Related Seizure of 626 Drug Related Seizure of 627 Drug Related Seizure of 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION 100 Other Labor Litigation 100 Othe	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 840 Trademark 840 Trademark 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7609	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrost 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are 15USCA Sec. 1692 Brief description of cause: FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACE	Reopened anothe (specifing (Do not cite jurisdictional)	d statutes unless diversity):	
VIII. RELATED CAS	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	UNSPECIPIED	JURY DEMAND: DOCKET NUMBER	of Yes □ No
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY OF RECORD		
09/11/2008	S/ HARVEY S. M	MORRISON X	(Duran	
RECEIPT #A	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUD	GE

Case: 1:08-cv-02176-DANT Per #TA TELECTOR OF COURT PageID #: 2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

l.	Civil Categories: (Please check one category only).
	1. ✓ General Civil
	Administrative Review/Social Security
	3. Habeas Corpus Death Penalty
	*If under Title 28, §2255, name the SENTENCING JUDGE:
	CASE NUMBER:
II.	RELATED OR REFILED CASES. See LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court and assigned to a District Judge after which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and subsequently refiled, it shall be assigned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regardfor the place of holding court in which the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for bringing such cases to the attention of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet."
	This action is RELATED to another PENDING civil case. This action is REFILED pursuant to LR 3.1.
lf app	olicable, please indicate on page 1 in section VIII, the name of the Judge and case number.
II.	In accordance with Local Civil Rule 3.8, actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the divisional offices therein. Actions involving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the purpose of determining the proper division, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested.
	ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP.
	(1) Resident defendant. If the defendant resides in a county within this district, please set forth the name of such county COUNTY:
	<u>Corporation</u> For the purpose of answering the above, a corporation is deemed to be a resident of that county in which it has its principal place of business in that district.
	(2) Non-Resident defendant. If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the county wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred.
	COUNTY: Cuyahoga
	(3) Other Cases. If no defendant is a resident of this district, or if the defendant is a corporation not having a principle place of business within the district, and the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred outside this district, please set forth the county of the plaintiff's residence. COUNTY:
V.	The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III, please check the appropriate division.
	EASTERN DIVISION
	AKRON (Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne) CLEVELAND (Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake,
	Lorain, Medina and Richland) YOUNGSTOWN (Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull)
	WESTERN DIVISION
	TOLEDO (Counties: Allen Auglaize Defiance Eric Fulton Hancock Hardin Hancock
	TOLEDO (Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca

VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of Ohio
BONITA L. DeCHANT aka BONNIE DeCHANT
Summons in a Civil Action
To: (Defendant's name and address)
LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C. 6380 Rogerdale Road - Suite 130 Houston, TX 77072-1624
A lawsuit has been filed against you.
Within <u>28</u> days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: HARVEY S. MORRISON, ESQ. 75 Public Square - Suite 1425 Cleveland, OH 44113-2070
If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.
GERI M. SMITH
Name of clerk of court
Date: Deputy clerk's signature

Proof of Service

		this place,	
	f each at the individual's dwelling or use and is of suitable age and discretion;	sual place of abode with	
	y of each to an agent authorized by app	ointment or by law to receive it whose name is; or	
4) returning the sun	nmons unexecuted to the court clerk on	; or	
5) other (specify)			
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Server's address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of Ohio

Plaintiff V. LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C., et al. Defendant) Civil Action No.
Summons	in a Civil Action
To: (Defendant's name and address)	
MICHAEL J. YOUNG c/o LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C. 6380 Rogerdale Road - Suite 130 Houston, TX 77072-1624	
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorned HARVEY S. MORRISON, ESQ.	on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve otion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The ey, whose name and address are:
75 Public Square - Suite 1425 Cleveland, OH 44113-2070	
If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered a must file your answer or motion with the court.	gainst you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also
	GERI M. SMITH
	Name of clerk of court
Date:	
	Deputy clerk's signature

Proof of Service

(1) personally delive		at this place,
		isual place of abode with
	of each to an agent authorized by app	pointment or by law to receive it whose name is ; or
(5) other (specify)		
		for services, for a total of \$ 0.00
		Server's signature

Server's address

JUDGE:

ENDORSED HEREON

7/19/2008 Rev. 7/22/2008 Rev. 7/23/2008 Rev. 9/11/2008

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

BONITA L. DeCHANT : CASE NO.

aka BONNIE DeCHANT :

159 Tamarack Drive : Berea, OH 44017 :

Plaintiff

v. : COMPLAINT

LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C. : JURY DEMAND

6380 Rogerdale Road – Suite 130 Houston, TX 77072-1624

MICHAEL J. YOUNG : c/o LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C.: 6380 Rogerdale Road – Suite 130 :

Houston, TX 77072-1624

Defendants

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages arising out of Defendants' violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, codified as 15 U.S.C. §1692, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as "FDCPA") prohibiting debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

- Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692(d) and 28 U.S.C.
 §1337.
- Plaintiff, an adult female, at all times pertinent hereto was a resident of Cuyahoga County, Ohio.
- Defendants, at all times pertinent hereto, were a law firm and lawyer, respectively, maintaining offices and practicing law in Houston, Texas.
- 5. Defendants, as "debt collectors", elected to do business and enter Cuyahoga County, Ohio by writing a letter to Plaintiff, an alleged debtor, a copy of which is annexed hereto as "EXHIBIT A", and incorporated by reference as if fully rewritten. By such action, Defendants established "minimum contacts" in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

III. THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff is an adult female at all times pertinent residing at 159 Tamarack
 Drive, Berea, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.
- Defendant, LAW OFFICES OF JAMES A. WEST, P.C. (hereinafter referred to as "WEST PC") is believed to be a professional corporation engaged in the practice of law and maintaining offices in Houston, Texas.
- 8. Defendant, MICHAEL J. YOUNG (hereinafter referred to as "YOUNG") is a lawyer licensed by the State Bar of Texas to practice law and is associated with Defendant WEST PC, and at all times pertinent hereto was acting in the course and scope of his employment as a lawyer maintaining offices in Houston, Texas.

- Defendants, WEST PC and YOUNG were retained as legal counsel for Capital One Bank for the express purposes of attempting to collect a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff to CAPITAL ONE BANK.
- Defendants, jointly and severally, are debt collectors as so defined by the FDCPA.
- 11. On or about July 9, 2008, Defendants wrote the letter to Plaintiff, annexed hereto as EXHIBIT A, seeking payment of the alleged debt. Said letter is written on the letterhead of Defendant WEST PC and bears the signature of Defendant YOUNG.
- 12. On July 10, 2008, EXHIBIT A was mailed to Plaintiff by Defendants through the U.S. Postal Service, as set forth in "EXHIBIT B", annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if fully rewritten.
- 13. The debt alleged to be owed by Plaintiff is a "consumer debt" as defined in the FDCPA.
- Defendants, as debt collectors, are subject to all of the provisions of FDCPA.
- 15. Defendant's position as "debt collectors" is further set forth in the last paragraph of "EXHIBIT A", which states:

"This communication is from a debt collector. We are required to inform you that this is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for this purpose."

Case: 1 parther, 2 before and published the internet web set of WEST PC, a portion of which, described as "Firm Overview", is set forth in "EXHIBIT C", annexed hereto and incorporated by reference as if fully rewritten. Such "Firm

"Our collection managers have over 40 years combined experience in the industry and they, along with Mr. West, make sure that all employees follow the law of the United States and Texas"

- 17. Ohio law bars recovery of attorney fees in the course of collecting claims against consumers for unpaid credit card billings, as being against the public policy of this State.
 - 18. The first paragraph of EXHIBIT A reads:

Overview" states, in part:

"Please be advised that since you have failed to resolve the above referenced matter to date, this law firm has been retained to review your account for potential litigation. Our client has asked us to inform you that a lawsuit filed against you may result in additional expenses for interest and court costs. Attorney's fees may also be sought." [Emphasis ours]

COUNT ONE VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. §1692

Plaintiff incorporates the allegations, statements and averments of
 Paragraphs One through Eighteen as if fully rewritten herein.

"[a]ny false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." More specifically, Section 1692(e) of the FDCPA prohibits Defendants from misrepresenting the character, amount or legal status of any debt.

- By use of the statement "Attorney's fees may also be sought" in EXHIBIT A, Defendants have violated Section 1692(e) of the FDCPA.
- 22. Further, Section 1692(f) of FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt. Included in the statute's definition of "unfair practices" under this subsection is a prohibition on the "collection of and amount (including any interest, fee, charge or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law."
- 23. By use of the statement "Attorney's fees may also be sought" in EXHIBIT A, Defendants have violated Section 1692(f) of the FDCPA.
- Upon receiving EXHIBIT A, Plaintiff experienced extreme mental distress, loss of peace of mind, worry and anguish.

COUNT TWO PUNITIVE DAMAGES

- 25. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations, statements and averments of Paragraphs One through Twenty-Three as if fully rewritten herein.
- Defendant, WEST PC, has heretofore been a Defendant in a series of actions arising out of the same <u>modus operandi</u>, with particular reference to averments that the creditor was entitled to recover attorney fees from the alleged obligors.

Carse: 108feMdant,7600NG, Mast acted as attorney8fot 20efendant,06025/T 12C, in at least one earlier action in this Court, to wit: Cherylette Belcher v. Law Offices of James A. West, P.C., et al., (Case No. 1:07-CV-3789 KMO), which litigation involved substantially the same facts as those in the present matter.

- 28. Defendants knew or should have known that Ohio law prohibits recovery of attorney fees from a debtor in a consumer action, but they have continued to make a representation that "Attorney's fees may also be sought", although such a claim is contrary to public policy in the State of Ohio.
- 29. Defendants' use of the statement, "Attorney's fees may also be sought", was intentional, malicious and reckless and was designed and intended to frighten the Plaintiff [and others similarly situated]. By virtue thereof, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages from the Defendants.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, prays for judgment as follows:

- Actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Statutory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- III. Punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- IV. Costs and attorney fees as provided by statute; and
- V. Such other and further relief as the Court determines to be just in the circumstances.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

/s/ HARVEY S. MORRISON
HARVEY S. MORRISON [#0015230]
Attorney for the Plaintiff
75 Public Square - Suite 1425
Cleveland, OH 44113-2070
PHONE: 216/687-0343
FACSIMILE 216/687-0323
EMAIL: harvmorr@aol.com

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6380 Rogerdale Road, Suite 130 Houston, TX 77072-1624

> (800) 568-4116 (713) 260-7627

July 09, 2008

Bonnie Dechaut

159 Tamarack DR Berea, OH 44017-1432

Ideal de Microsoff Code de la la del de la della della

Reference: Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.

Account No: 4305722340066094 Current Balance: \$9733.71

Dear Bonnie Dechant:

Please be advised that since you have failed to resolve the above referenced matter to date, this law firm has been retained to review your account for potential litigation. Our client has asked us to inform you that a lawsuit filed against you may result in additional expenses for interest and court costs. Attorney's fees may also be sought.

Please note that as of the date of this letter, no decision has been made with regard to litigating your account. You may forestall any such potential action if you contact my office to discuss payment of your obligation. However, if we do not hear from you we will be forced to make this decision without any input from you. If a decision is made to proceed with litigation, your account will be forwarded to an attorney in your area for said action. Please call 800-568-4116 and ask for ELLERY GUILLORY at extension 1147.

Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, I will assume this debt to be valid. If you notify this office in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice, we will obtain verification of the debt and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request from this office in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This communication is from a debt collector. We are required to inform you that this is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Young Autorne at Law

EXHIBIT A

LAW OFFICE OF

A Professional Corporation
A Professional Corporation
GS80 ROGSRDALE ROAD, SUITE 150
HOUSTON, TIEXAS 77072
RIGTURN SIGRATICE REQUESTED

Bonnie Dechant 159 Tamarack DR Berea, OH 44017-1432

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EXHIBIT B

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JAMES A. MEST

Saturday July 19 2008 - 5:49:59 PM

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Firm Overview

The Law Offices of James A. West, P.C. is a full service lawfirm that can handle most any type of litigation. We represent clients ranging from individuals to multi-million dollar corporations, and all sizes of companies and individuals in between.

ames A. West, P.C. has a complete collection division that is devoted to retail and business collections. Our strengths include our experienced staff and our quality control process. We have the best up to date computer abilities and extensive skip tracing databases as well as various methodologies that include segmentation by modeling and automated calling using these resources. Our niche is that not only can we collect accounts in the same manner as a regular collection agency, but with our litigation experience we review accounts to determine if the account is worth while to litigate, and follow through using all available means to collect on a judgment.

As previously stated, another feature of James A. West, P.C., is our experienced collection staff. Our average collector has 9.5 years experience in the collection industry and knows the laws relating to third party collections. Our collection managers have over 40 years combined experience in the industry and they, along with Mr. West, make sure that all employees follow the laws of the United States and Texas as well as the rules of James A. West, P.C. and all requirements of our clients.

Our number one rule is Always Be Polite. However, we do not shy away from any battle! For over 15 years the firm has been collecting debts for court reporters from attorneys as well as many other types of cases. Unfortunately, many of these required a lawsuit in order to collect the debt. We have been, and always are more than willing to go one on one with anyone to serve our clients interests, whether it is against attorneys, corporations or anyone else.

We have been very successful in collecting Judgments. While many firms will get a judgment and put it in a drawer hoping that someone will sell some property sometime, we aggressively search for assets and seek to collect the judgment for our client as soon as possible.

http://www.jamesawestpc.com/firmover2.htm

7/19/2008

James A. West, P.C. Home

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We are small enough to be flexible for our clients are do our best to prove the best customer service and legal advice as possible.

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EXHIBIT C